

## **SCiDUC Inaugural Symposium**

Pushing State Agencies Into the Sky





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Please find your Seats We will start shortly



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Pushing State Agencies Into the Sky



## South Carolina Aeronautics Commission Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program

David Smith UAS Program Manager

South Carolina Aeronautics Commission



SCIDUC Columbia, SC

## **Defining The Need**

- Airports losing approaches due to obstructions
- Obstruction identification and removal process has limitations
  - Ground survey limitations
  - Costly for GA Airports to perform full scale traditional aerial mapping
  - Procuring full scale aerial mapping takes time
  - Outdated information in FAA database

## Fixing the problem The Unmanned Aircraft System

- Other benefits
  - 5010 inspections
  - Support as needed for FAA/NTSB in accident response
  - Assist with state's land use and compatibility program
  - Support other South Carolina state agencies with aerial imagery

6

## **UAS Program Goal**

 Our goal is to provide high quality data sets for South Carolina airports that enable them to better manage the obstruction coordination and removal process. The integration of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) along with GIS and our core safety initiatives are the foundation for our GIS program.



## SenseFly eBee X



6/3/2024

## **Aeropoints Ground Target**



6/3/2024

# Advantages of using a UAS

- Cost savings (average single airplane \$300/hr versus pennies for charged batteries)
- Provide very accurate datasets
- Time savings
- On-demand mapping and aerial photography
- Data validation for SCAC Compatible Land Use Tool process
- Data validation for AIP construction projects
- Assistance with state emergency response needs

# Disadvantages of using a UAS

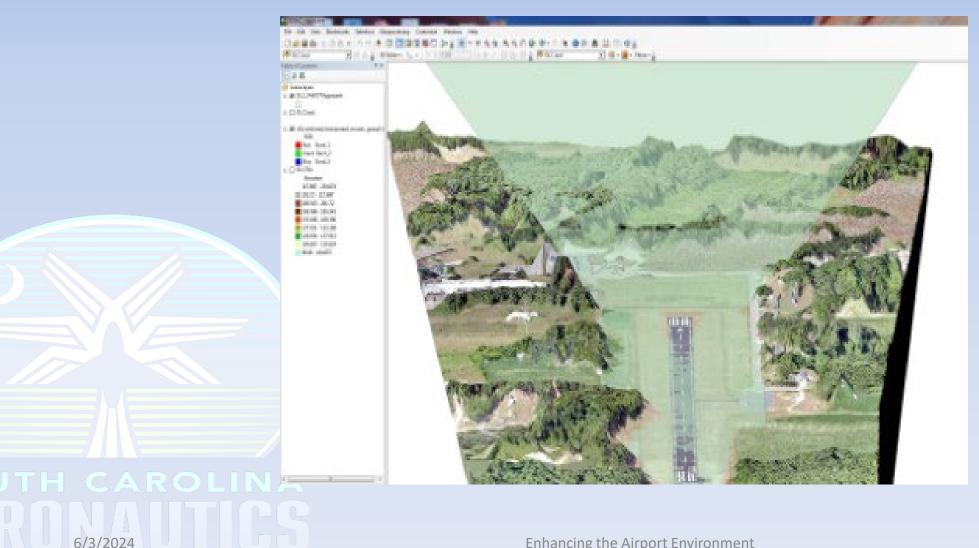
- Can not operate outside of Visual Line of Sight
- Battery life limitation
- Can only fly in VFR conditions
- Can not cover large areas in a single flight like conventional aerial data collection
- Limitation in heavily forested areas

Point cloud imagery Dillon County Airport



TH CAROLINA ROMAUTICS

Aerial image draped over point cloud



#### Aerial image draped over point cloud



6/3/2024

Aerial image overlaid with property owner information



A High Resolution aerial image



## Analysis results format

- Interactive web application
- Hard copy map
- Map package to be given to others with access to ESRI ArcGIS
- Can be exported into AutoCad or any other mapping or engineering software that recognizes .tin models or .las files



## Thank You



#### **David Smith**

dwsmith@aeronautics.sc.gov 803-896-6294



## What is the FAASTeam? Community Outreach and Public Perception of Drones Joey Roberts - FAASTeam Drone Pro - CrossFlight Sky Solutions



Website: faasafety.gov | crossflightskysolutions.com Twitter: @FAASafetyBrief Instagram: @joey\_\_213, @crossflightskysolutions Facebook: FAADroneZone, CrossFlightSkySolutions Linkedin: /joey-roberts



## National FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam)

#### **FAASTeam Organizational Structure**

To fulfill its mission, the FAA's Safety Program is structured with a National FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) staff with assigned personnel holding positions as Safety Liaison Team (SLT) Leads and FAASTeam Program Managers (FPM).

#### FAASTeam Process for Planning to Reduce Accidents

The National FAASTeam develops standardized safety interventions for General Aviation (GA), and may support other safety initiatives such as UAS, Next-Gen, Runway Safety and the General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (GAJSC) Safety Enhancements, etc. In addition, there is flexibility built into the program that affords the FPMs adequate flexibility to innovate locally, and respond to localized safety issues through:

- Accident/incident reports involving airmen from the area
- Hazards identified by FAA Inspectors at local Flight Standards District Offices
- Information from the local aviation community



## **FAASTeam Outreach**

### **FAASTeam Representatives**

Aviation safety volunteers that wish to work closely with FAASTeam Program Managers (FPM) to promote safety may be designated as FAASTeam Representatives. Volunteers receive training and are supported by the FPM with equipment and materials.

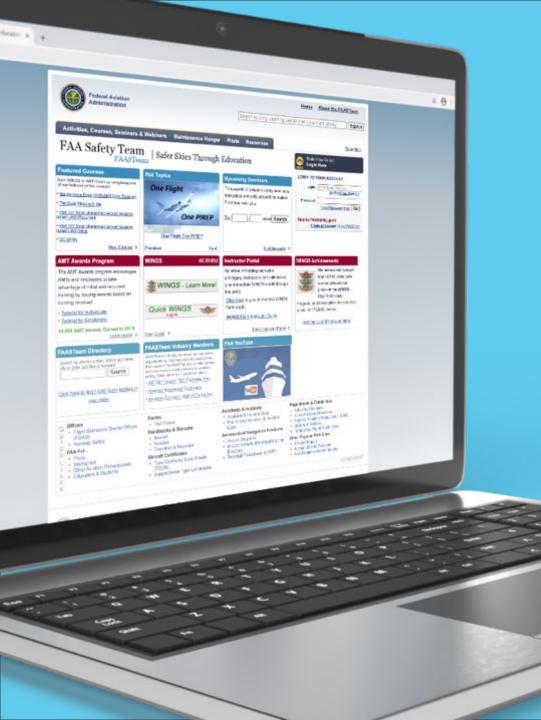
### **FAASTeam Industry Members**

The FAASTeam has guidelines for the establishment of Industry Members. They are companies or associations of people that have a stake in aviation safety. The guidelines describe how these groups and the FAASTeam can formalize their desires to promote aviation safety together.

### FAASTeam Tools

FAASTeam program management is based on a safety risk management approach, using system safety principles, risk prioritization, and new technology concepts. These FAASTeam system safety techniques are used to shift the safety culture towards the reduction of accidents.





## **FAASTeam Outreach**

#### Relationships with the Aviation Community

The FAASTeam "teams up" with individuals and the aviation industry to create a unified effort against accidents and "tip" the safety culture in the right direction.

#### ⇒FAASTeam Members

➤ A FAASTeam Member is anyone who makes a conscious effort to promote aviation safety and become part of the shift in safety culture.

#### To become a member:

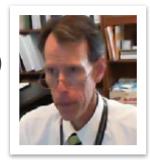
- Sign-up at <u>FAASafety.gov</u> and take part in all it has to offer
- Pilots participate in our new WINGS - Pilot Proficiency Program
- Mechanics- participate in the new automated AMT Awards Program
- Attend live FAASTeam webinars or events in your area





## South Carolina FSDO 13 FAASTeam

Lanny Cline, FPM (OPS)





James Dangerfield, FPM (AW)

- > 33 FAASTeam Representatives
- Seven FAASTeam Service Providers





## **Mission Statement**

"Lower the Nation's aviation accident rate by conveying safety principles and practices through training, outreach, and education while establishing partnerships and encouraging the continual growth of a positive safety culture within the aviation community."







## The SC FSDO FAASTeam Activity

FY 2023

Total Events (Seminar & Webinars): 141

Total Attendees: 7003

Average Attendance: 53







## Who can fly a drone?

Recreational Flyer and Modeler Community-Based Organization

Certificated Remote Pilot or Commercial Operator

**Public Safety or Government User** 

**Educational User** 



## Drones by the Numbers (as of 2/29/24)

781,781

**Drones Registered** 

375,226 Commercial Drones Registered

400,858

**Recreational Drones Registered** 

5,697

Paper Registrations

https://www.faa.gov/node/54496

377,447 **Remote Pilots Certified** 

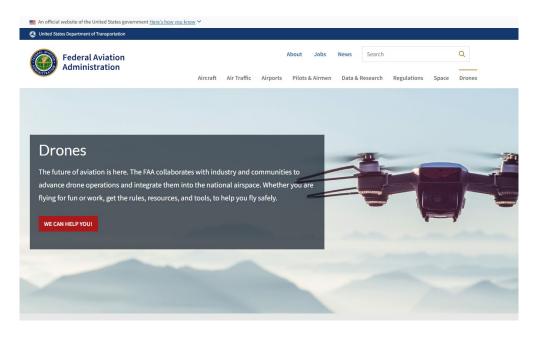
706,075 **TRUST** Certificates Issued





## FAA Drone Tools

- <u>https://www.faa.gov/uas</u>
- What kind of drone flyer are you? <u>https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\_started/user</u> <u>identification\_tool</u>



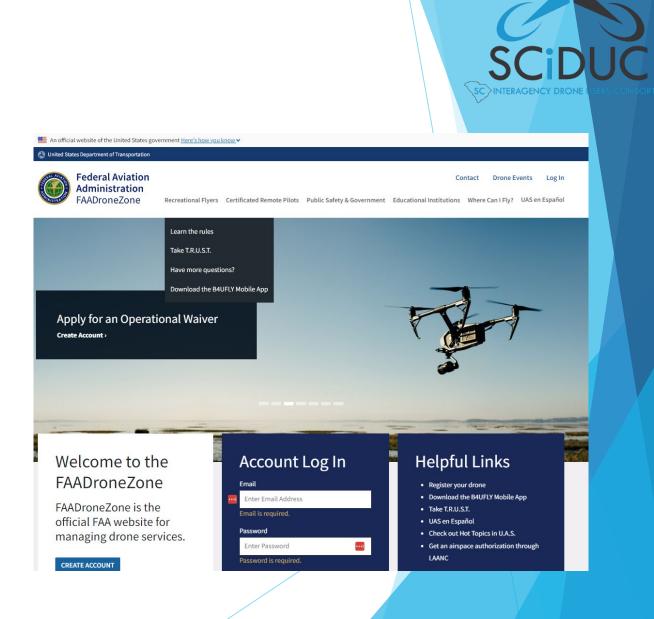


## FAA Drone Tools

 FAA Drone Zone

 For authorizations, waivers, and registrations

https://faadronezone-access.faa.gov/



## How can you get involved?

- Stay up to date with the latest events on FAAsafety.gov
- Participate in local area events
- Inform your community members of the rules and how to adhere to them
- Invite the FAASTeam to host events for your station/departement or community
- Join the FAASTeam



# Thank you!





joeyr@crossflightskysolutions.com

Website: faasafety.gov | crossflightskysolutions.com Twitter: @FAASafetyBrief Instagram: @joey\_\_213, @crossflightskysolutions Facebook: FAADroneZone, CrossFlightSkySolutions Linkedin: /joey-roberts



Event Sponsor



Lunch Sponsor

# Networking Break





**Registration Sponsor** 



**Break Sponsor** 









## Panel Discussion How Are State Agencies Using Drones

- Ryan Reid: Greenville County Sheriff's Office
- Scott Reynolds: Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Darryl Jones: SC Forestry Commission



## Keynote Speaker

## Cybersecurity Drone Policy Explained

Casie Ocana: Director of AUVSI's Trusted Programs



#### Unlocking Potential & Mitigating Risks: The Importance of Cybersecurity in UAS

Casie Ocańa Director, Trusted Programs - AUVSI

> Website: www.auvsi.org Twitter: @AUVSI LinkedIn: in/AUVSI

## What We'll Uncover in This Session

Threat Assessment - Is there really anything to worry about?

- Responses In Market
  - Blue UAS for DoD
  - Green UAS for non-DoD and commercial users
- Procurement Strategies for Compliance
- The Proper Pronunciation of My Name

The World's Critical Infrastructure Suffered 13 Cyber Attacks Every Second in 2023



## **Rising Threat Assessment: UAS**



- US Army discontinues use of all DJI drones
- CISA releases threat memo on PRC drone risk
- DHS releases bulletin on PRC drone risk for critical infrastructure and ublicy safety
- Congress passes FY2020 NDAA prohibiting DoD from purchasing PRC drones



• **DoJ bans** use of agency grants for purchasing PRC drones

2020

- **DOI grounds** all PRC drones, noting cybersecurity risks
- Dept of Commerce places DJI on entity list and Dept of Treasury places DJI on Office of Foreign Assets Controls' list of firms part of military industrial complex
- Executive Order 139881 prohibits use of taxpayer dollars to procure UAS that present unacceptable risks and are manufactured by foreign adversaries
- DoD releases statement labeling DJI as posing potential threats to national security

**DoD** identifies DJI as Chinese military company

2022

- Congress expands NDAA restrictions to also prohibit private companies working with DoD from using unsecure drones in performance of federal contract
- **Congress** recommends Autel be added to Commerce Entity List

2023

- ASDA is signed into law as part of the 2024 NDAA; extending DoD procurement ban on drones from covered entities to all US government agencies and prohibits federal agencies from operating these drones
- CISA & FBI release updated warning memo on use of PRC drones in critical infrastructure operations

2024

 Sens. Thune & Warner introduce DETECT Act, legislation directing NIST to develop procurement guidelines

#### The Risks - Tangible & Wide-ranging



## Robust network security for drones as connected devices is crucial to mitigate exposure risks and internal threats to organizational security

#### **Operational Security**

Reliance on firmware updates means that drone functionality is contingent on the manufacturer's continued support and updates

## Protecting Against the Risks



#### Verification

Confirming cybersecurity and supply chain compliance for systems in advance, such as NDAA compliance when necessary



#### **Risk Assessments**

Operational reviews can help determine appropriate guidance

Ongoing training and policy updates can also minimize risks

# DoD Compliance

The Blue UAS program makes commercial UAS available to **DoD and Federal Government** partners

#### Requirements for addition to the Blue List:

- A **DoD sponsor** with a bona fide operational or training need for the platform, defined as a DoD organization that is willing and able to fund the initial and ongoing platform NDAA compliance and cybersecurity testing, and intends to purchase the platform upon addition.
- It offers a new capability or meets a need in a way not previously done.
- It is not duplicative or have significant overlap with platforms already available.

Policy compliant commercial UAS, once vetted by the Blue UAS On-Ramp effort, do not require an Exception to Policy (ETP), reducing the administrative burden on end users.

## Expanding Compliance with Green UAS



**Green UAS** was designed to support the **expansion of DIU's Blue UAS** with vetted drones that meet the same level of cyber security and supply chain requirements as mandated by Congress in the 2020 and 2022 NDAAs;

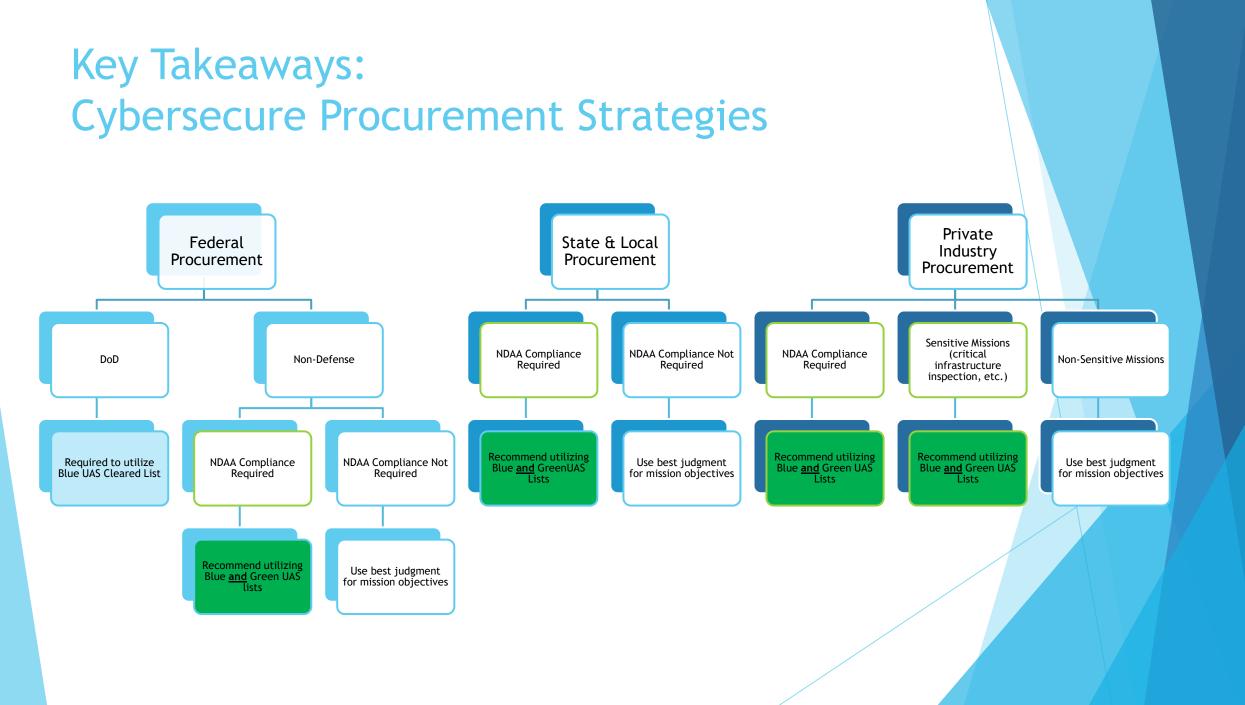
<u>and</u> to provide a **non-DoD government and commercial pathway** to ensure trust in drone security, using robust frameworks and additional areas of assessment not included in Blue UAS, and framework flexibility based on customer demands

## **Verification Cheat Sheet**





Consideration DIU | BlueUAS AUVSI | GreenUAS **DoD Certified Solutions** Commercial and Non-Defense Focus Certification **Application Process** Requires a DoD Sponsor Open to all NDAA Compliance Provides NDAA Compliance Provides NDAA Compliance Verification Verification **GSA** Inclusion Yes Not yet **Remote Operations &** Out of scope for certification Verified during certification Connectivity **Corporate Cyber** Out of scope for certification Verified during certification Hygiene **Product & Device** Verified during certification Verified during certification Security Supply Chain Risk Verified during certification Verified during certification Management



## Thank You!

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SKY SOLUTIONS



# Lunch

# Bentley Industry & Innovation Overview - SCiDUC

Michael Barkasi Solutions Engineer | May "24"

**Bentley**<sup>®</sup>

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## Infrastructure connects us globally and locally. It is essential for improving our quality of life.

# Bentley®

The Infrastructure Engineering Software Company

For over 40 years, Bentley has served the engineers and other professionals responsible for designing, constructing, and operating sustainable infrastructure essential to the quality of life for everyone, everywhere.

#### WHO WE ARE

We are more than a software company. We are partners dedicated to advancing the world's infrastructure.

#### WHAT WE DO

We provide infrastructure professionals with the software and support they need to make this world a better place.

#### WHY WE DO IT

We know that better infrastructure means a better economy, a better environment, and a better quality of life for all.

## Bentley Systems | Industries



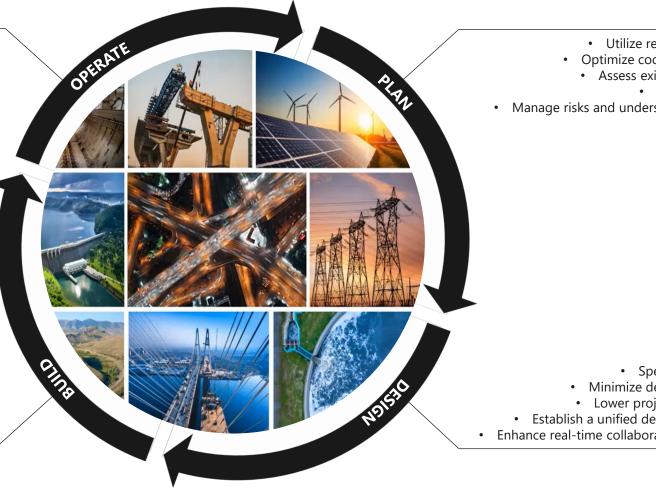
## Bentley Systems | Infrastructure Lifecycle

#### **Operation & Maintenance**

- Manage inventory and schedule maintenance
- Integrate IoT for condition assessment •
- Monitor in real-time and analyze data
- Create virtual replicas of assets •
- Predictive maintenance and reduction of site visits •

- Ensure regulatory compliance •
- Enhance worker safety measures ٠
- Utilize virtual assessment and documentation for assets •
- Virtual construction environments with clash detection ٠
- Coordinate and communicate with stakeholders •

#### Construction



#### Planning

Utilize reality data for digital context

- · Optimize coordination with stakeholders
- Assess existing conditions thoroughly
  - Visualize designs effectively
- Manage risks and understand financial impacts early

• Speed up project completion • Minimize design revisions and rework • Lower project risks, costs, and delays • Establish a unified design and analysis platform Enhance real-time collaboration through digital twins

#### Design



### Bentley Systems | Transportation Solutions



- Road Design, Engineering, and Construction
- Rail Engineering and Construction
- Tunnel Design and Analysis
- Bridge Design, Engineering, and Construction
- Bridge Monitoring

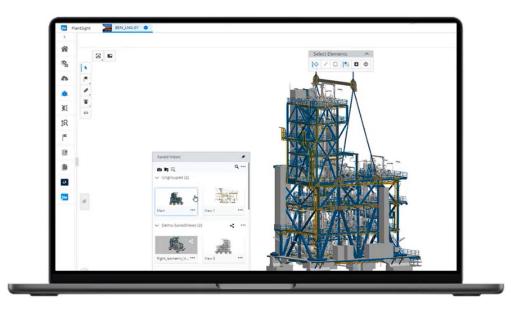
## Bentley System | Transportation Offerings



#### **Bentley**<sup>®</sup>



## Bentley Systems | Energy Benefits



- Instant data access for stakeholders
- Collaboration between Owners and Contractors
- Centralize project data for full visibility
- Integrate data to minimize project risks
- Streamline design-to-construction handoff

## Bentley System | Energy Offerings



#### **Bentley**<sup>®</sup>

## Bentley System | Electric Utility Offerings





## Bentley System | Water Infrastructure Offerings





### Bentley Systems | Cities & Campuses Benefits

- Real-time spatial insight for assets
- Gain the visibility and insight needed to improve decision-making and business outcomes.
- Data-driven decisions across all stakeholders
- Connect data, streamline workflows, and enhance asset performance.
- Oversee data from various sources, formats, scales, or complexities—including point clouds, reality and BIM models, and operational data from business systems and IoT-connected devices



#### Bentley Systems | Cities & Campuses Infrastructure



- Digital Twin Integrations
- Building Design & Analysis
- Real-Time Visualization
- Steel and Concrete Design
- Visual Integration Platform
- Airport Planning & Coordination

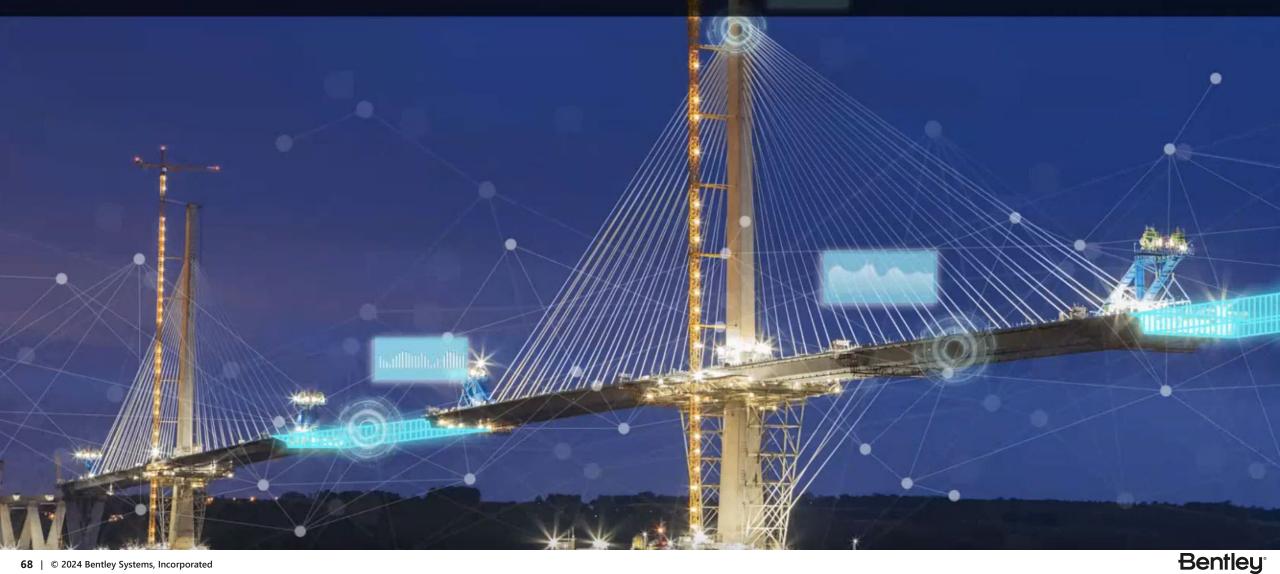
#### Bentley System | Cities Solution Capabilities



#### **Bentley**<sup>®</sup>

## Bentley's Focus On Innovation

## **Through Infrastructure Digital Twins**



#### **Digital Twin**

Reality dataEngineering dataSchedule dataGeospatial dataGeotechnical dataEnterprise dataSensor data

**Bentley**<sup>®</sup>

**Physical Asset** 

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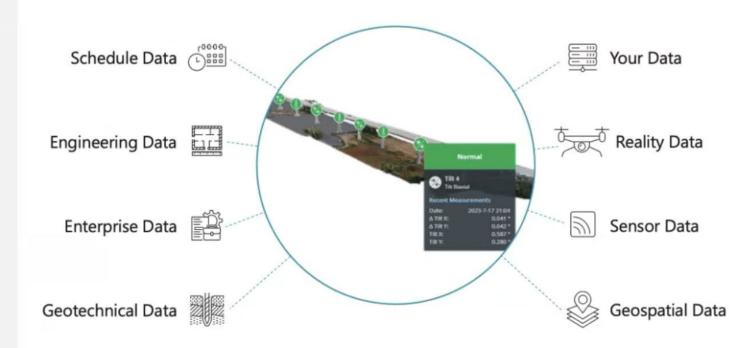
NO VILVOVOVO

A **digital twin** is a virtual representation of real-world entities and processes, synchronized at a specified frequency and fidelity.

# An iTwin is an infrastructure digital twin

implemented using Bentley's iTwin Platform and product portfolio.

#### **Infrastructure Digital Twin**



Connect disparate data and systems

Reduce costs and better decision-making Streamline processes and workflows Improve collaboration and transparency

## **Embracing and exceeding open standards**







R

Digital Twins Linked Visualizations & Data



#### Capture Modeler | Capture Modeler Center

#### iTwin Capture Modeler



Master / Engine installed together



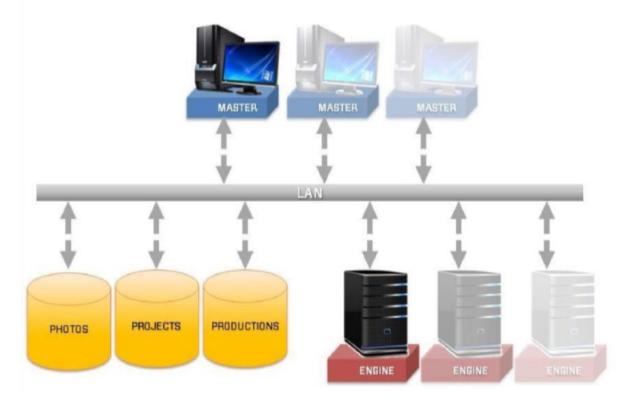


Optionally a Second Capture Modeler (lic required) can be networked



Cloud Console

#### iTwin Capture Modeler Center



- Modeler Center architecture allows for licensing of Master / Engines
- No Limitation on the number that can be networked together

#### **Bentley**<sup>®</sup>

## **Reality Modeling**

Capturing existing conditions in **3D using one or a combination of devices** (UAVs, Handheld Camera, Laser Scanner) to support different applications such as **Digital Twins**, **Mapping, Design, Construction, Inspection** and **Asset Management** 



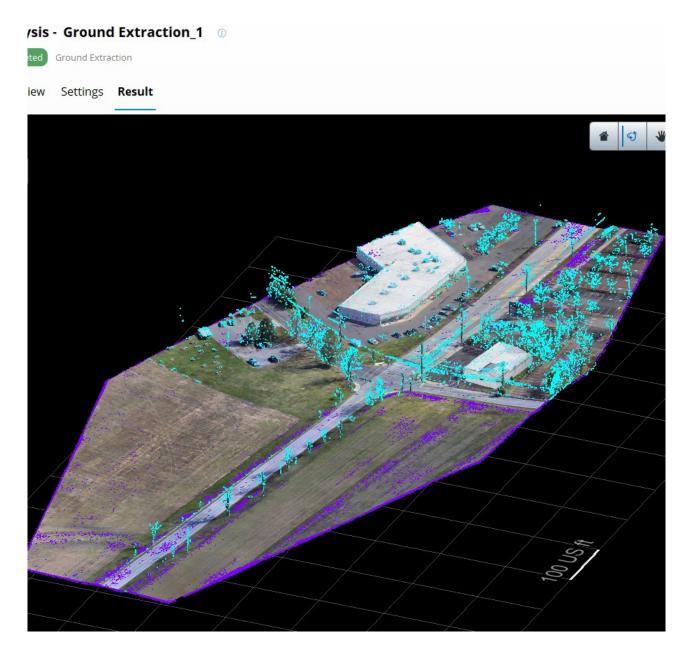
# Al Ground Detection

## • iTwinCapture Modeler

Reality Model to classified point cloud

## OpenRoads Designer

Classified point cloud to Terrain Model

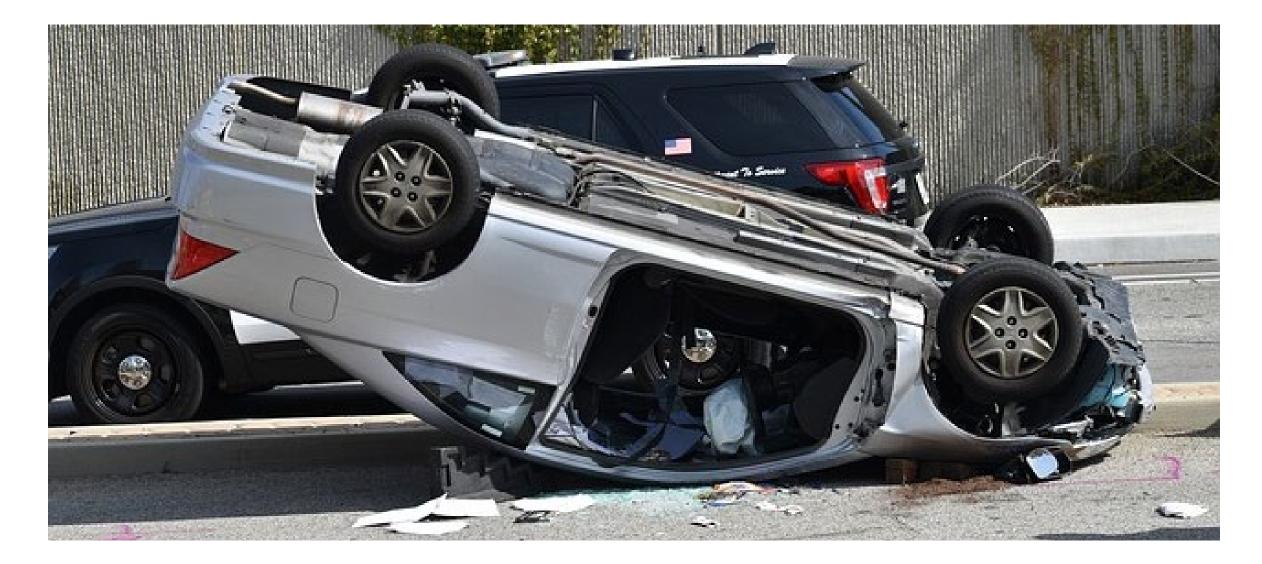


## 4D Simulation Earthwork – 4D



**Bentley**<sup>®</sup>

## Forensics



# iTwin IoT



iTwin IoT is a cloud-based, scalable monitoring platform for infrastructure professionals that provides real time data insights through active condition monitoring for natural and built environments.



### Capabilities

- Remotely monitor, analyze, and manage all instrumentation systems and IoT sensor data
- Measure structural movement
- Perform condition assessment and help detect and prevent damage using current and historical data
- Enables data centricity throughout all phases of the project lifecycle via digital twin integration
- Open interoperability with no vendor lock-in

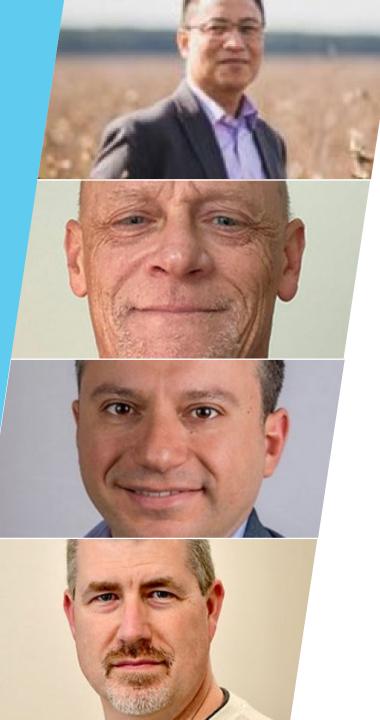
#### News

- Improved analysis capabilities within the digital twin through convergence of sensor data with the unification of Enterprise Data Historian and File Source data
- Real-time data and historical IoT time series data access with a revised sensor data service API, freeing users to focus on innovation vs. data wrangling
- AI/ML workflows leveraging existing IoT time series data streams to improve user analytical reasoning and decision-making



# **Commitment to your success**

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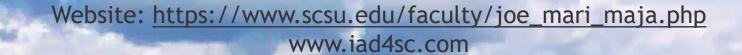
# Academic Lightning Talks

- Dr. Joe Mari Maja of South Carolina State University
  - RFID and Drones for Nursery Inventory Management
- Wayne McFee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
  - Uncrewed Aircraft Systems in Marine Mammal Research
- Dr. Nikos Vitzilaios of the University of South Carolina
  - Aerial Drones for Water Sensing and Targeted Sampling
- Mike Proud of the National Weather Service
  - Drones and Weather Important Forecast Elements for Drone Pilots





# Drones at Work: Innovating Inventory Tracking and Management Joe Mari Maja, Ph.D., MBA



in –)



# Center of Applied Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Agriculture

**Joe Mari J. Maja, Ph.D.** Senior Researcher & Director

Van Patiluna, M.Eng. Senior Researcher **Hemanth Dakshimaurthy, Ph.D**. Research Scientist

<u>Graduate Students</u> Jyoti Neupane, Aashish Karki

<u>Previous Students/Interns</u> Megan Abenina, Stewart Bell, Adam Ellie, Matthew Polak, Jake Enloe, Alex Steedley, Jakob Weber, Christina Lewis, Sihang Han, Colby Heirs

#### **Visiting Scientists**

Ana de Castro Mejias, Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Spain Jose Pena Barragan, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Spain Jan Behmann – Institut fur Nutzpflanzenwissenschaften und Ressourcenschutz\*, Germany David Bohnenkamp – Institut fur Nutzpflanzenwissenschaften und Ressourcenschutz\*, Germany

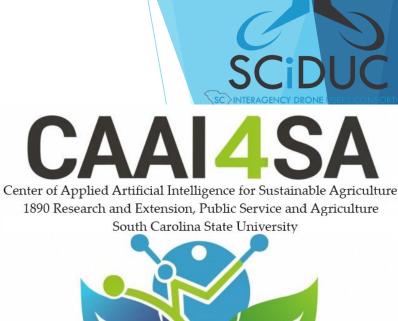




United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture





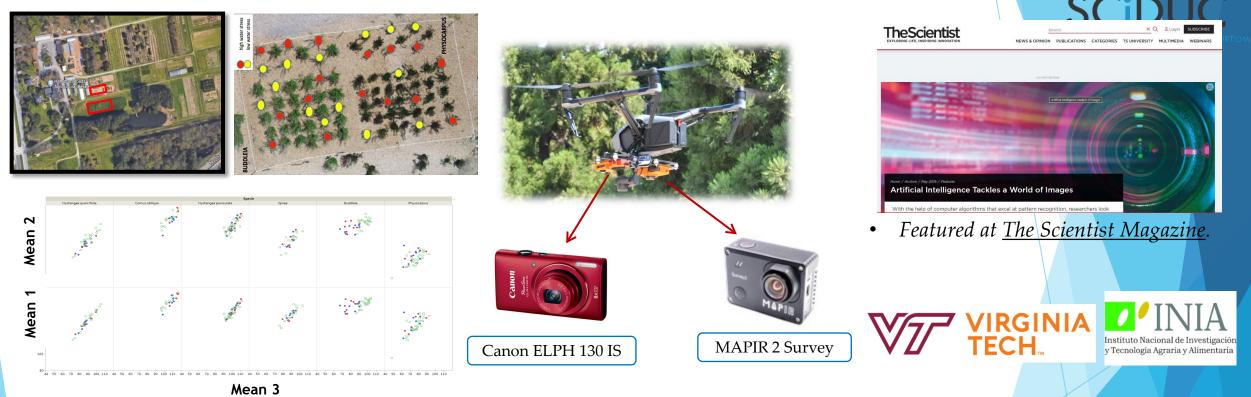


making agriculture more equitable





## UAV Projects: Detect water stress in ornamental plants using sUAS-imagery





Ana I. de Castro, **Joe Mari Maja**, Jim Owen, James Robbins, Jose M. Pena. 2018. Experimental approach to detect water stress in ornamental plants using sUAS-imagery, Proc. SPIE 10664, Autonomous Air and Ground Sensing Systems for Agricultural Optimization and Phenotyping III, 106640N (21 May 2018); <u>https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2304739</u>





Freeman, D.; Gupta, S.; Smith, D.H.; **Maja, J.M**.; Robbins, J.; Owen, J.S., Jr.; Peña, J.M.; de Castro, A.I. **Watson on the Farm: Using Cloud-Based Artificial Intelligence to Identify Early Indicators of Water Stress**. Remote Sens. 2019, 11, 2645. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/rs11222645</u>

## UAV Projects: Detecting water stress with hyperspectral data















United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

UNIVERSITÄT BONN



Borra-Serrano, I., Pena, J.M., Maja, J.M., Owen, J., Robbins, J., De Castro, A.I. 2023. Evaluation of a low-cost drone sensor to discriminate water stress levels in ornamental plants. 14th European Conference on Precision Agriculture (ECPA 2023), July 2-6, 2023, Bologna, Italy.





COA# 2014-ESA-155-COA

N-538XC

3. QGIS - Digitizing UAV Image

1.1 Addendum to QGIS Georeferencing

1. QGIS - Georeferencing

- Yield estimate
- Insect abundance and crop injury
- Phenotyping

ieneral 🚺 Plugins 🔝 Python warning 🗔 Proce

Maja, JMM\*, T. Campbell, J. Camargo Neto, P. Astillo. 2016. Predicting cotton yield of small field plots in a cotton breeding program using UAV imagery data, , Proc. SPIE 9866, Autonomous Air and Ground Sensing Systems for Agricultural Optimization and Phenotyping, 98660C (May 17, 2016); https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2228929

### Fact Sheet

**TUTORIALS** 

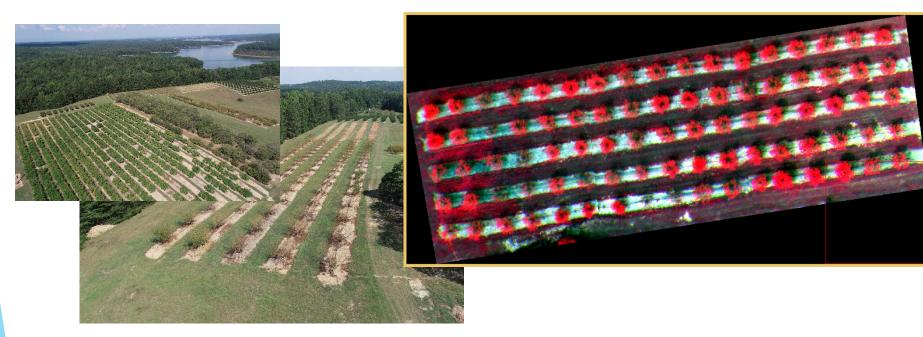
2. OGIS - NDVI

Features to consider when purchasing a small UAS <u>here</u>
Pilot Certification and Aircraft Registration for non-hobby users of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems <u>here</u>
Significant Timeline Events for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems <u>here</u>

### J. Frank Schmidt Foundation Grant



UAV Projects: Drone-based hyperspectral monitoring of peach tree defoliation caused by leaf rust disease



Collaborators:

José M. Peña, Juan Carlos Melgar, Guido Schnabel, Ana I. de Castro

CSIC







UNIVERSIDAD Ð CÓRDOBA

de Castro, A, Melgar, JC., Maja, J.M., Schnabel, G., Dorado, J., Lopez-Granados, F., Pena, J. 2022. Digitalizacion en cultivo de melocotonero: Caso practico en EE UU. Agricultura Journal.



### Prediction of Potassium in Peach Leaves Using Hyperspectral Imaging

80%
71%
81%

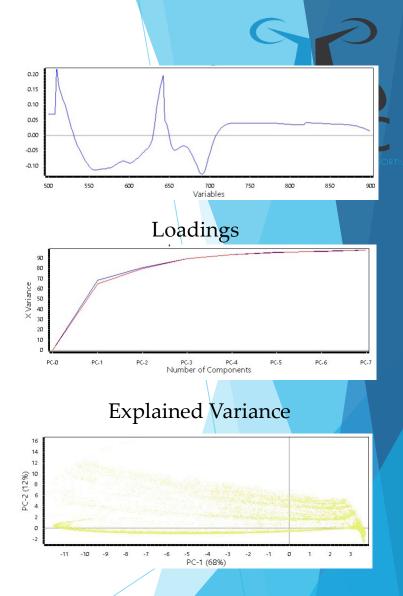
Var1

PC2

Trees	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
H1-T1	500 - 520	630 - 640	550	690
H1-T2	500-520	630 - 640	550	690
H1-T3	500 - 520	630 - 640	550	690

Var3 🔴

PC1



Scores



Abenina, M.I.A.; **Maja, J.M**.; Cutulle, M.; Melgar, J.C.; Liu, H. Prediction of Potassium in Peach Leaves Using Hyperspectral Imaging and Multivariate Analysis. AgriEngineering 2022, 4, 400-413. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering4020027</u>

### **Robots for Cotton Production**



John Deere Cotton Harvester



 $proof \ of \ concept$ 



Farmers pick cotton in Korla City, Bayingolin Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture

Efficiency of farming ~ economies of scale



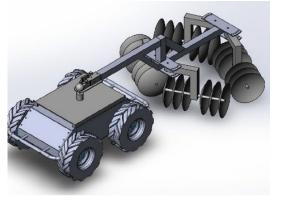
Barnes E, Morgan G, Hake K, Devine J, Kurtz R, Ibendahl G, Sharda A, Rains G, Snider J, **Maja JM**, Thomasson JA, Lu Y, Gharakhani H, Griffin J, Kimura E, Hardin R, Raper T, Young S, Fue K, Pelletier M, Wanjura J, Holt G. Opportunities for Robotic Systems and Automation in Cotton Production. AgriEngineering. 2021; 3(2):339-362. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering3020023</u>

Maja, J.M.; Polak, M.; Burce, M.E.; Barnes, E. CHAP: Cotton-Harvesting Autonomous Platform. AgriEngineering 2021, 3, 199-217. https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering3020013

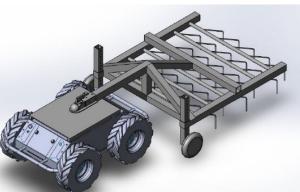
Mail, M.F.; **Maja, J.M.**; Marshall, M.; Cutulle, M.; Miller, G.; Barnes, E. Agricultural Harvesting Robot Concept Design and System Components: A Review. AgriEngineering 2023, *5*, 777-800. https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering5020048



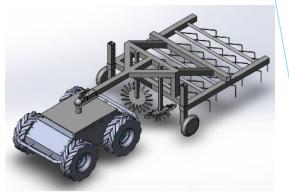
#### **Robots for Cotton Production**



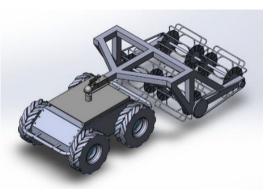
Adjustable Harrow Disk



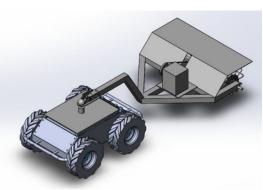
Flex Tine



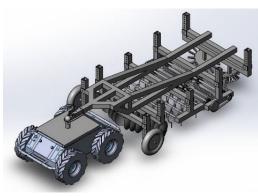
**Finger Flex Tine** 



Basket







Modular Weeder

Cutulle, M.A., **Maja**, J.M. 2021. Determining the utility of an unmanned ground vehicle for weed control in special crop systems. Italian Journal of Agronomy 2021, Vol. 16:1865, <u>https://doi.org/10.4081/ija.2021.1865</u>



Maja, J.M.\*; Cutulle, M. γ; Barnes, E. γ; Enloe, J.; Weber, J. 2021. Mobile Robot Weeder Prototype for Cotton Production, AgEng 2021 Conference, Evora Portugal, July 4-8, 2021.

**Maja**, J.M.<sup>\*</sup>; Polak, M.<sup>a</sup>; Burce, M.E.<sup>a</sup>; Barnes, E<sup>γ</sup>. 2021. CHAP: Cotton-Harvesting Autonomous Platform. AgriEngineering. 2021; 3(2):199-217. https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering3020013

### **Robots for Cotton Production**



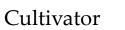
Weeder

Husky with Cultivator JM Maja, M. Cutulle & J. Quino

**Clemson University** 

Cotton Inc.





Autonomous Cotton Defoliation

J. Neupane, J.M. Maja, G. Miller, M. Marshall, M. Cutulle, J. Luo, E.. Barnes

Sprayer







Harvester



## **Research** Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory





To demonstrate merging specific ground- and aerial-based technologies (aerial-based unmanned systems; RFID; BLE) in a whole system approach to address the specific need of providing on-demand plant inventory

Patiluna, V.; Maja, J.M.; Robbins, J. Evaluation of Radio Frequency Identification Power and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Altitude in Plant Inventory Applications. AgriEngineering 2024, 6, 1319-1334. https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering6020076

Quino, J.; Maja, J.M.; Robbins, J.; Owen, J., Jr.; Chappell, M.; Camargo, J.N.; Fernandez, R.T. The Relationship between Drone Speed and the Number of Flights in RFID Tag Reading for Plant Inventory. Drones 2022, 6, 2. https://doi.org/10.3390/drones6010002

Quino, J.; Maja, J.M.; Robbins, J.; Fernandez, R.T.; Owen, J.S., Jr.; Chappell, M. RFID and Drones: The Next Generation of Plant Inventory. AgriEngineering 2021, 3, 168-181. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering3020011</u>









United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture





**NIVERSITY OF GEORGIA** 



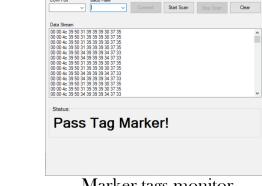
### Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory

- UAV: DJI Matrice 600 Pro
- RFID-RM: ATSAM3X8E microcontroller + M6E-NANO RFID Module chip + microSD card writer/reader (for storing RFID data) + xBee transceiver
- Reader Antenna: RP-TNC UHF antenna (860-960 MHz)
- Payload weight: 360 grams

PUBLIC SERVICE & AGRICULTU

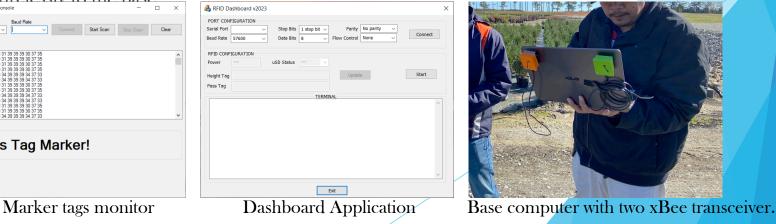
Innovate Educate Elevate

- Dashboard application was developed to control the RFID power setting and log the read tags in addition to the microSD card.
- RFID power setting can be adjusted at 15 dBm, 20 dBm and maximum of 27 dBm.
- Another application was developed to monitor the 'pass' and 'height' marker tags.
- Data from RFID-RM was transmitted wirelessly to the base computer via xBee.





RFID-RM and antenna suspended under the Matrice 600 Pro UAV.





## Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory 2022: 9,000 RFID Tags were deployed at Dudley Nursery 2023: 80 RFID Tags were deployed at Dudley Nursery

Tag Type	Antenna	Attachment
L5	dog bone	stake
L6	dog bone	loop-lock
L8	square wave	stake
L9	square wave	loop-lock

- A total of 20 tags per type spread across the two plots.
- Each plot included a total of 40 tags, with 10 tags of each type.
- Tags were placed randomly within each plot.
- L8 tags are used as 'pass' and 'height' markers.
- All the tags were manufactured and supplied by Avery Denison Corporation.

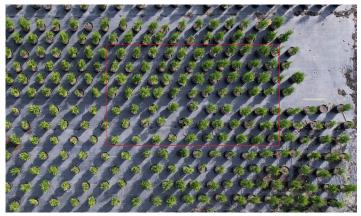








### Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory

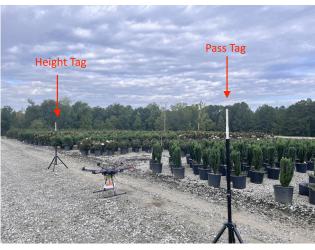


L9		L6		L9		L6		L8		L5		L9		L9		L9		L8			Ρ
	Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		
L6		L8		L8		L6		L8		L5		L6		L8		L8		L8			
	Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		
L5		L6		L6		L5		L5		L6		L6		L9		L8		L8			
	Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		Х		
L5		L6		L5		L5		L9		L9		L9		L5		L9		L9			Н

Aerial view of study plot.

RID tags assignment map.

- Plots W7 and W10 have similar layouts.
- Tag assignments are determined randomly per plot.
- Experiments were conducted at Dudley Nurseries in Thomson, GA, USA (33.52242, -82.51449).
- Two plots provided with different plants.
  - Thuja X 'Green Giant' (plot W7)
  - Ilex crenata 'Sky Pencil' (plot W10)



Marker tag positions.



Satellite view of plots W7 and W10.







### Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory

- A total of 3 take-off and land cycles (one for each UAV power setting).
- Before the first take-off, the tags are validated using a handheld scanner (Zebra RFD8500) to ensure all the tags are accounted for.
- Two passes will be made per the RFID power setting.
- During tag scanning, UAV will fly in a Ushape pattern over the study plot.

RFID power setting	UAV altitude	Flight Status
15  dBm	3 m	take-off - scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags - scan height tag
	$5 \mathrm{m}$	scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags – scan height tag
	7 m	scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags – scan height tag - land
20  dBm	3 m	<b>take-off</b> - scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags – scan height tag
	$5 \mathrm{m}$	scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags – scan height tag
	7 m	scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags – scan height tag - <b>land</b>
27 dBm	3 m	take-off - scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags - scan height tag
	$5 \mathrm{m}$	scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags – scan height tag
	7 m	scan tags - scan pass tag - scan tags – scan height tag - land

UAV flight plan.



## **Research** Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory



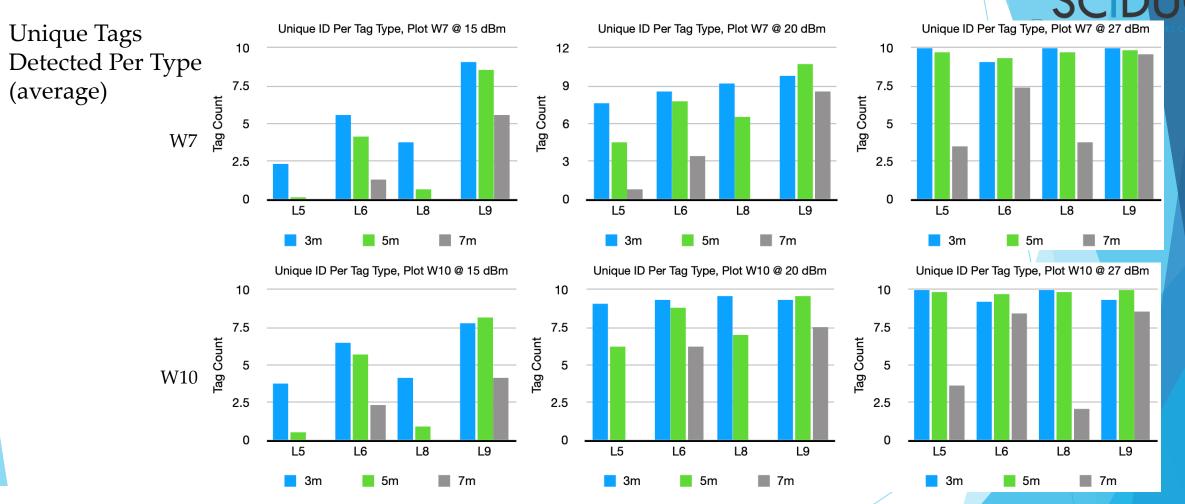
UAV approaching 'pass' tag.



UAV in flight.



### Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory



Average of unique tags detected per tag type for plot W7 and W10.



#### Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory



### **Scanning Accuracy**

W7											W	10			
RFID pwr	UAV altitude	L5	L6	L8	L9	Total	Accuracy (%)	RFID Pwr	UAV altitude	L5	L6	L8	L9	Total	Accuracy (%)
15 d <b>B</b> m	3 m	2.25	5.58	3.83	9.08	20.75	52	$15 \mathrm{dBm}$	3 m	3.81	6.56	4.19	7.75	22.31	56
	$5 \mathrm{m}$	0.17	4.17	0.67	8.58	13.58	34		5 m	0.56	5.75	0.88	8.13	15.31	39
	7 m	0.00	1.25	0.00	5.58	6.83	17		7 m	0.00	2.38	0.00	4.13	6.50	16
20 dBm	3 m	7.58	8.50	9.17	9.83	35.08	88	20  dBm	3 m	9.06	9.31	9.63	9.31	37.31	93
	5 m	4.58	7.75	6.58	10.67	29.58	74		5 m	6.25	8.81	7.00	9.56	31.63	79
	7 m	0.75	3.42	0.08	8.50	12.75	32		7 m	0.06	6.25	0.00	7.56	13.88	35
27 dBm	3 m	10.00	9.08	10.00	10.00	39.08	98	27 dBm	3 m	10.00	9.25	9.94	9.31	38.50	96
	5 m	9.75	9.33	9.83	9.92	38.83	97		5 m	9.81	9.69	9.88	10.00	39.38	98
	7 m	3.50	7.42	3.83	9.58	24.33	61		7 m	3.63	8.38	2.06	8.63	22.69	56

Scanning accuracy at different power setting and height for plot W7 and W10.

Patiluna, V.; Maja, J.M.; Robbins, J. Evaluation of Radio Frequency Identification Power and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Altitude in Plant Inventory Applications. AgriEngineering 2024, 6, 1319-1334. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/agriengineering6020076</u>



### Using RFID, and Drones to Improve Plant Inventory

<u>Acknowledgment</u>

- This work was partially supported by a grant from Dr. Tanju Karanfil (Vice President of Research) of Clemson University and is based on work supported by NIFA/USDA under project number S1069.
- Special thanks to Avery Dennison Corporation and Mr. Bennett Dudley of R.A. Dudley Nurseries Inc. for their support and assistance in this research.

## <u>Next step</u>

- New Funding from the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) to continue to work on different crop canopies.
- Submitted a Specialty Crop Research Initiative to increase test sites and focus on flight campaign and economics.





# Drones at Work: Innovating Inventory Tracking and Management

Joe Mari Maja, Ph.D., MBA

Center of Applied Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Agriculture 1890 Research & Extension, Public Service and Agriculture Email: <u>jmaja@scsu.edu</u>





SCiDUC Symposium May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## Aerial Drones for Water Sensing and Targeted Sampling Dr. Nikos Vitzilaios University of South Carolina

Email: vitzilaios@sc.edu Website: https://usrl-uofsc.github.io/ LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/vitzilaios

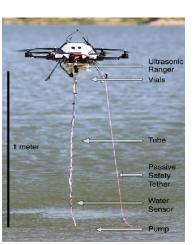
# UAS-based Water Sensing\Sampling



- The use of drones can significantly accelerate water sensing\sampling.
- The concept of using aerial drones for water sensing\sampling is not new, however, previous projects focused either on sensing or sampling.
- Limited payload and flight time constrains the amount of collected sample and multiple sample collection.
- Having the pump at the inlet may harm the living organic matters present in the water before collection.
- Fluorescence-triggered sampling for fluorescent organic matter has not been attempted before.





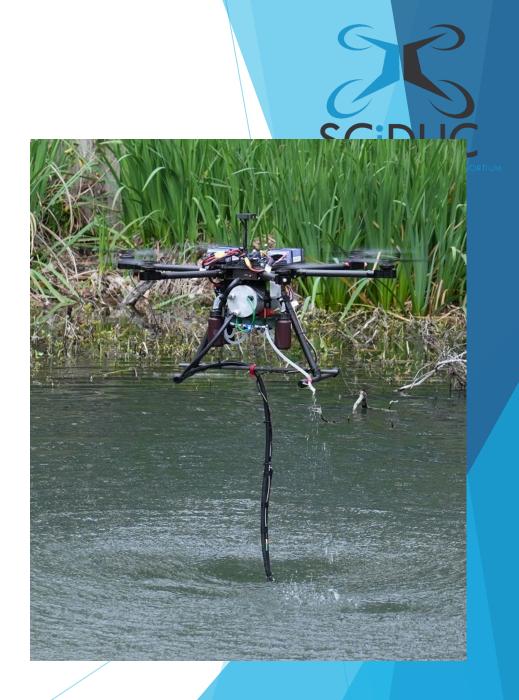






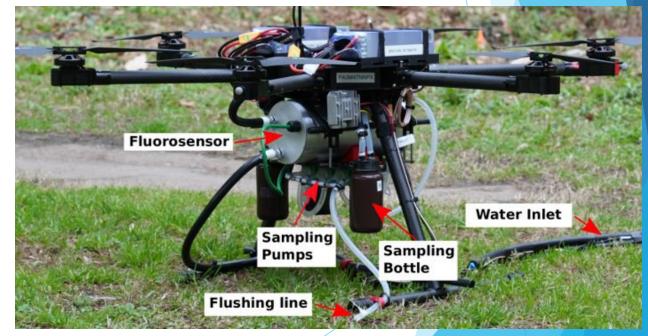
# **Our Developed System**

- Collect 3 samples of 250 mL.
- Autonomous sensor-triggered sample collection.
- Customized control functions to allow different use cases.
- Vacuum-assisted sampling. Therefore, samples don't pass through moving parts of a pump before collection.
- Records data to build a Geographic information system (GIS) framework.



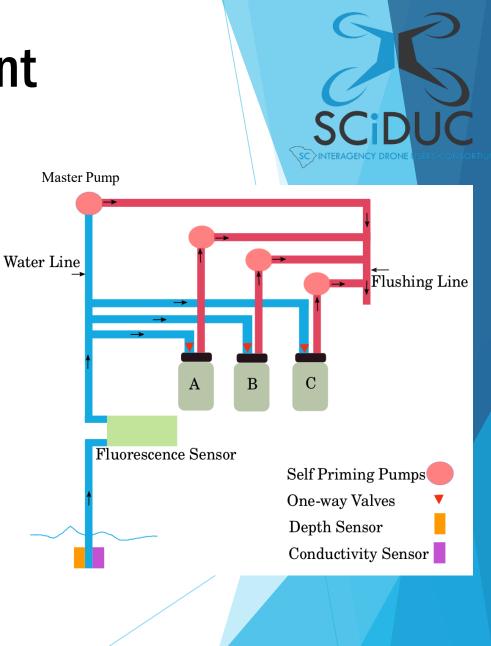
# **System Design and Development**

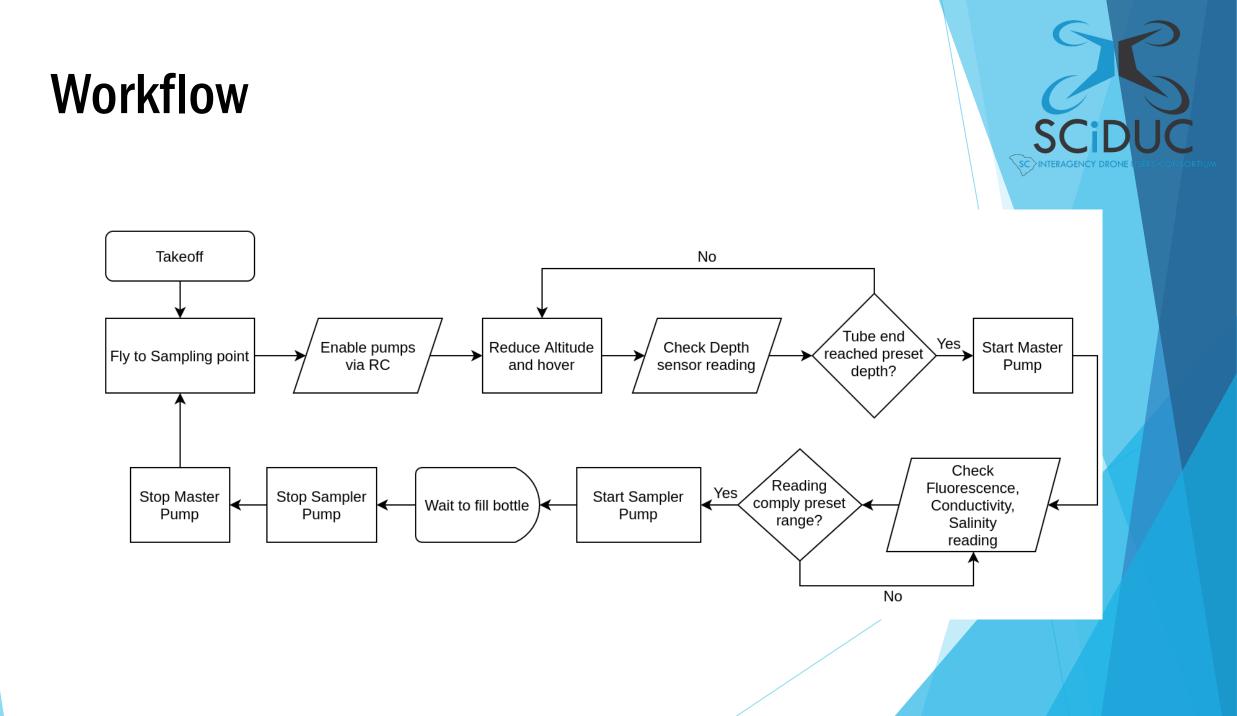
- UAS Platform
  - Aurelia X6 Standard
  - 5 kg payload excluding batteries
  - TOW: 7170g (empty), 11902g (with WSSA)
  - MTOW: 12170g
  - 45 mins flight time
  - Raspberry Pi 4B as onboard computer
- Water Sensing and Sampling Apparatus (WSSA)
  - 3 bottles of 250 mL each
  - 4 self-priming pumps
  - Fluorescence sensor
  - Depth sensor
  - Conductivity sensor



# **System Design and Development**

- Water Sensing and Sampling Apparatus (WSSA)
  - First, the master pump creates a vacuum in the main channel.
  - The one-way valves prevent backflow and facilitate the creation of the vacuum.
  - The vacuum pulls water through the fluorescence sensor into the main channel.
  - A sampler pump creates a vacuum in the corresponding sampling bottle to fill it.
  - When the container is full, water flows out of it, passes through the sampler pump, and exits to the flushing line.





# **Experimental Validation**

- Locations
  - A.C. Moore Garden, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
  - Lake Wateree, SC
- Two different scenarios were tested:
  - 1. Go to sampling points and collect 1 bottle of sample in each point.
  - 2. Sweep across a line to map the fluorescence level.



# Moore Garden Trials, USC Campus







## Lake Wateree Trials





## **Questions?**





### **Contact Information**

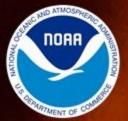
Dr. Nikos Vitzilaios Department of Mechanical Engineering University of South Carolina 300 Main Street Rm A219 Columbia SC, 29208 Tel: 803-777-9754 vitzilaios@sc.edu



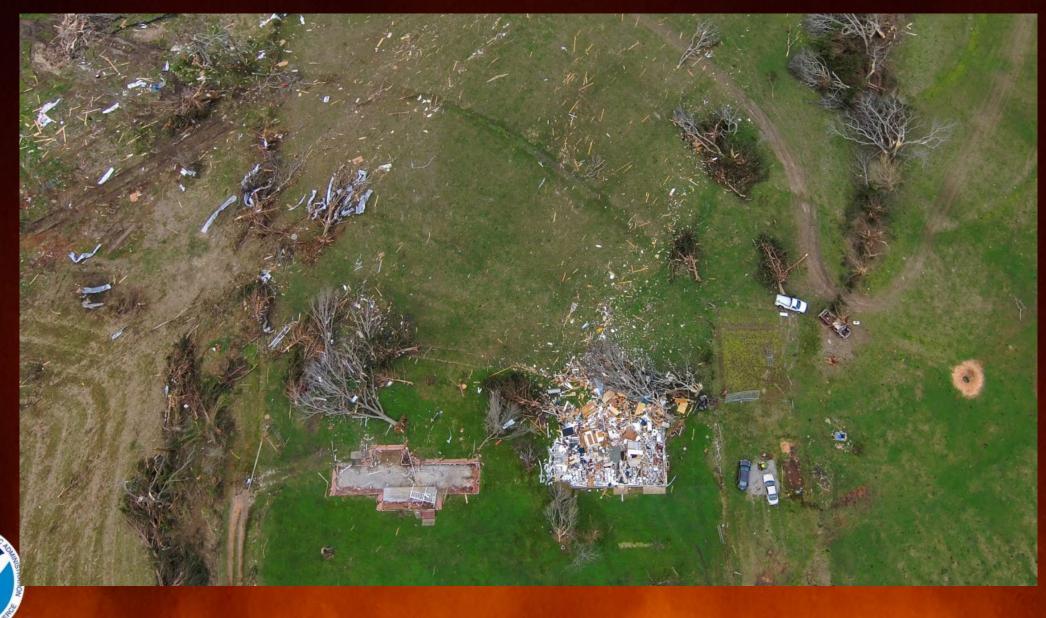


## Mike Proud Lead Forecaster and Incident Meteorologist

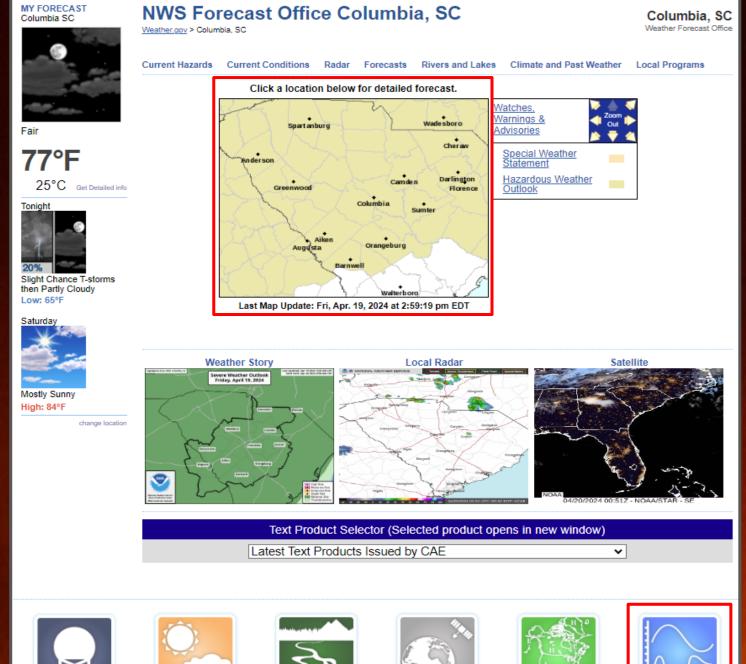




## NWS Drone Usage for Storm Surveys and Damage

















Hour by Hour Forecast

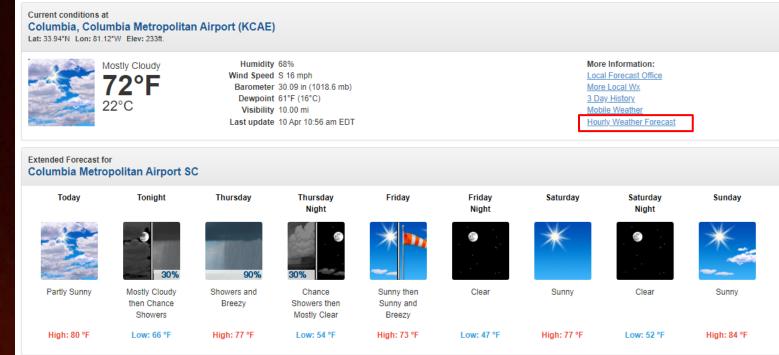


Current Weather

Radar

Satellite

Forecast Maps



Detailed Forec	ast		Topographic  Click Map For Forecast
Today	Partly sunny, with a high near 80. South wind around 10 mph.		
Tonight	A chance of showers, mainly after 4am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Southeast wind 10 to 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.		- Imo
Thursday	Showers and thunderstorms before 2pm, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 2pm and 4pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4pm. High near 77. Breezy, with a south wind 21 to 23 mph, with gusts as high as 37 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.	Wurray	Dentsville Columbia
Thursday Night	A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 8pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. Southwest wind around 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.		
Friday	Sunny, with a high near 73. Breezy, with a west wind 13 to 23 mph, with gusts as high as 37 mph.	191	77 N. F. V.
Friday Night	Clear, with a low around 47.		YAND. Y
Saturday	Sunny, with a high near 77.		TZ ZIN Y
Saturday Night	Clear, with a low around 52.	1V	A The Ca
Sunday	Sunny, with a high near 84.	Disclaimer	
Sunday Night	Mostly clear, with a low around 58.	Forecast Area	
Monday	Sunny, with a high near 86.	Point Forecast:	Columbia Metropolitan Airport SC
Monday Night	Mostly clear, with a low around 59.	Last Update:	33.94°N 81.11°W (Elev. 207 ft) 2:59 am EDT Apr 10, 2024
Tuesday	Mostly sunny, with a high near 86.	Forecast Valid:	2.59 am EDT Apr 10, 2024 11am EDT Apr 10, 2024-6pm EDT Apr 16, 2024





aturday <mark>N</mark> ight	Clear, with a low around 52.
Sunday	Sunny, with a high near 84.
Sunday Night	Mostly clear, with a low around 58.
Monday	Sunny, with a high near 86.
Monday Night	Mostly clear, with a low around 59.
Tuesday	Mostly sunny, with a high near 86.

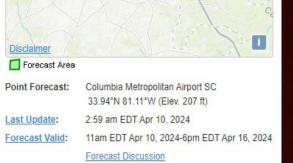
#### Additional Forecasts and Information

#### ZONE AREA FORECAST FOR LEXINGTON COUNTY, SC

Forecast Discussion Printable Forecast Text Only Forecast Hourly Weather Forecast Tabular Forecast

Hazardous Weather

Air Quality Forecasts International System of Units



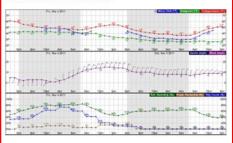
**Additional Resources** 

#### Radar & Satellite Image

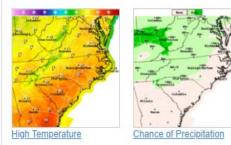


KML XML

#### Hourly Weather Forecast



#### National Digital Forecast Database







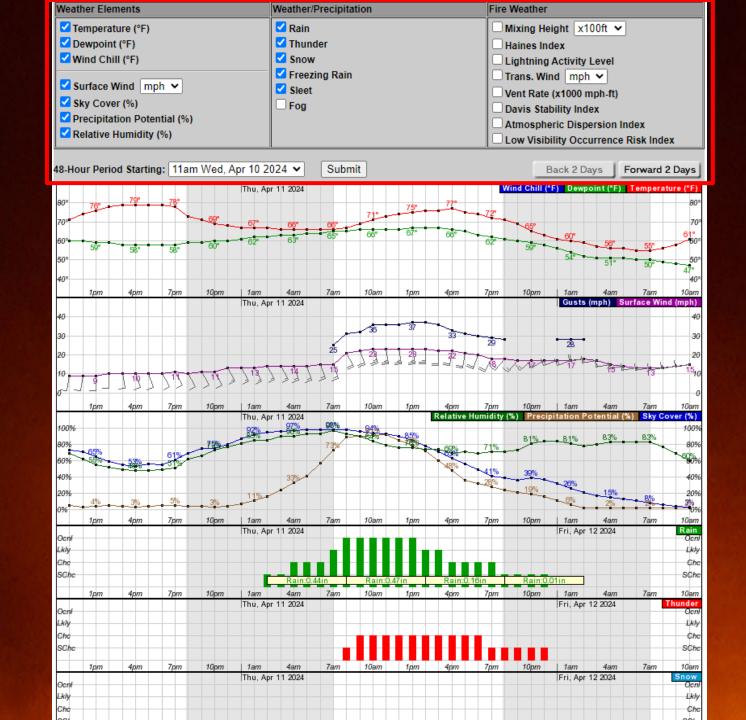






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Potential (%)       5       3       4       5       5       4       4       3       4       7       11       16       24       33       41       57       73       89       90       91         Relative Humidity (%)       69       62       55       52       49       48       49       51       62       66       73       77       81       85       85       90       90       93       93       97       93       90       84         Rain       - <td>Sky Cover</td> <td>73</td> <td>71</td> <td>65</td> <td>59</td> <td>55</td> <td>53</td> <td>56</td> <td>55</td> <td>61</td> <td>69</td> <td>75</td> <td>75</td> <td>80</td> <td>87</td> <td>92</td> <td>95</td> <td>96</td> <td>97</td> <td>98</td> <td>98</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Sky Cover	73	71	65	59	55	53	56	55	61	69	75	75	80	87	92	95	96	97	98	98					
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Thunder       - </td <td></td> <td>69</td> <td>62</td> <td>55</td> <td>52</td> <td>49</td> <td>48</td> <td>48</td> <td>49</td> <td>51</td> <td>62</td> <td>66</td> <td>73</td> <td>77</td> <td>81</td> <td>85</td> <td>85</td> <td>90</td> <td>90</td> <td>93</td> <td>93</td> <td>97</td> <td>93</td> <td>90</td> <td>84</td>		69	62	55	52	49	48	48	49	51	62	66	73	77	81	85	85	90	90	93	93	97	93	90	84	
Snow       I		-															SChc	SChc	Chc	Chc	Chc	Lkly				
Preezing Rain       I       <																							SChc	Chc	Chc	
Sleet       I <td>Freezing</td> <td>_</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>_</td> <td>_</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>_</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>_</td> <td></td>	Freezing	_						_	_							_								_		
Hour (EDT)       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       00       01       02       03       04       05       06       07       08       09       10         Temperature (*F)       66       66       66       67       67       67       66       65       63       61       60       59       57       56       56       55       56       58       56       58       56       56       56       56       56       58       56       58       56       56       56       56       56       58       56       58       56       56       56       56       58       56       58       56       56       56       56       56       56       58																										
Temperature (F)       73       74       75       76       76       77       75       74       72       71       69       65       63       61       60       59       57       56       56       55       56       56       55       56       56       55       56       56       55       56       56       55       56       56       56       55       56       56       56       55       56 </td <td>Date</td> <td></td> <td>04/12</td> <td></td>	Date														04/12											
(*F)       73       74       75       76       76       76       76       77       75       74       72       71       65       63       61       60       53       57       56       56       55       56       56       55       56       57       <		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	
Dewpoint (*F)       66       66       67       67       67       67       67       66       63       62       61       60       59       58       56       54       52       51       51       51       50       50       49       48       47         Wind Chill (°F)       23       23       23       23       23       23       23       23       23       23       5       5       5       51       51       51       51       51       51       51       51       50       49       48       47         Wind Chill (°F)       23       23       23       23       23       23       5       S       <		73	74	75	76	76	77	75	74	72	71	69	65	63	61	60	59	57	56	56	55	55	56	58	61	
Surface Wind (mph)       23       23       23       23       23       23       23       22       22       21       20       18       18       17       18       17       1	Dewpoint (°F) Wind Chill	66	66	67	67	67	66	65	63	62	61	60	59	58	56	54	52	51	51	51	50	50	49	48	47	
Wind Dir       S<	Surface Wind	23	23	23	23	22	22	21	20	18	18	17	17	17	17	17	18	17	15	14	13	13	13	14	15	
Gust       36       36       37       37       36       33       31       30       29       28       <		S	s	s	S	S	S	s	S	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	
(%)       93       90       85       78       71       63       56       49       41       39       36       39       37       32       26       21       17       15       13       11       8       6       4       3         Precipitation Potential (%)       92       85       79       72       60       48       36       32       28       24       21       19       16       11       6       2																										
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Humidity (%)       19       16       14       14       69       11       13       81       84       81       78       80       83	Potential (%)	92	85	79	72	60	48	36	32	28	24	21	19	16	11	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Thunder         Chc         Chc         Chc         Chc         Chc         Scho         S		79	76												84	81	78	80	83	83	83	83	77	69	60	
Snow													0.01	COL-												
Freezing	Rain																									
	Rain Thunder														-				-	-		-	_			
Sleet	Rain Thunder Snow Freezing														-	-							-	-		



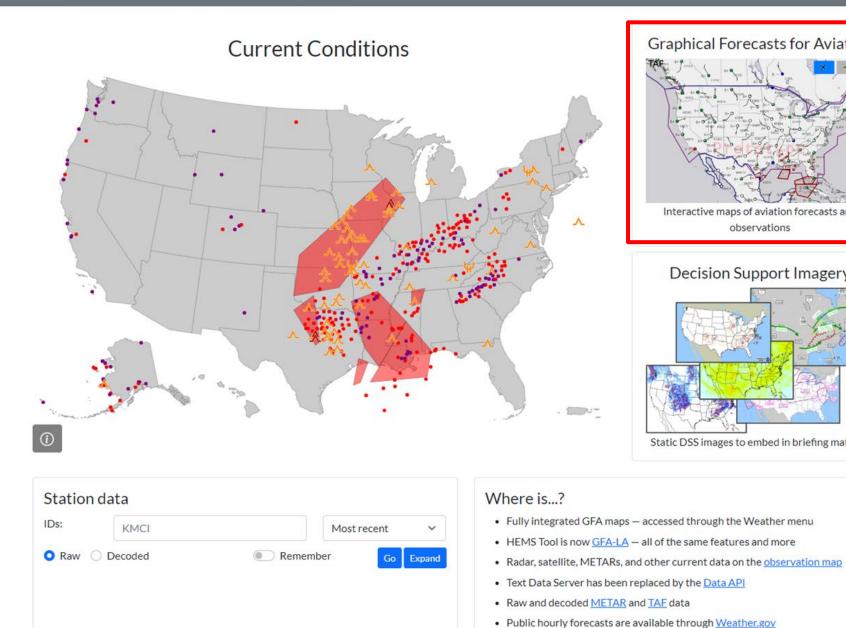


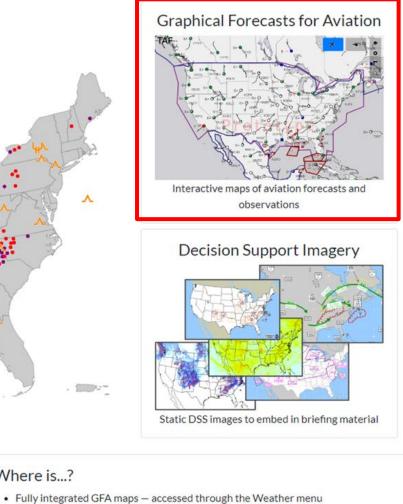


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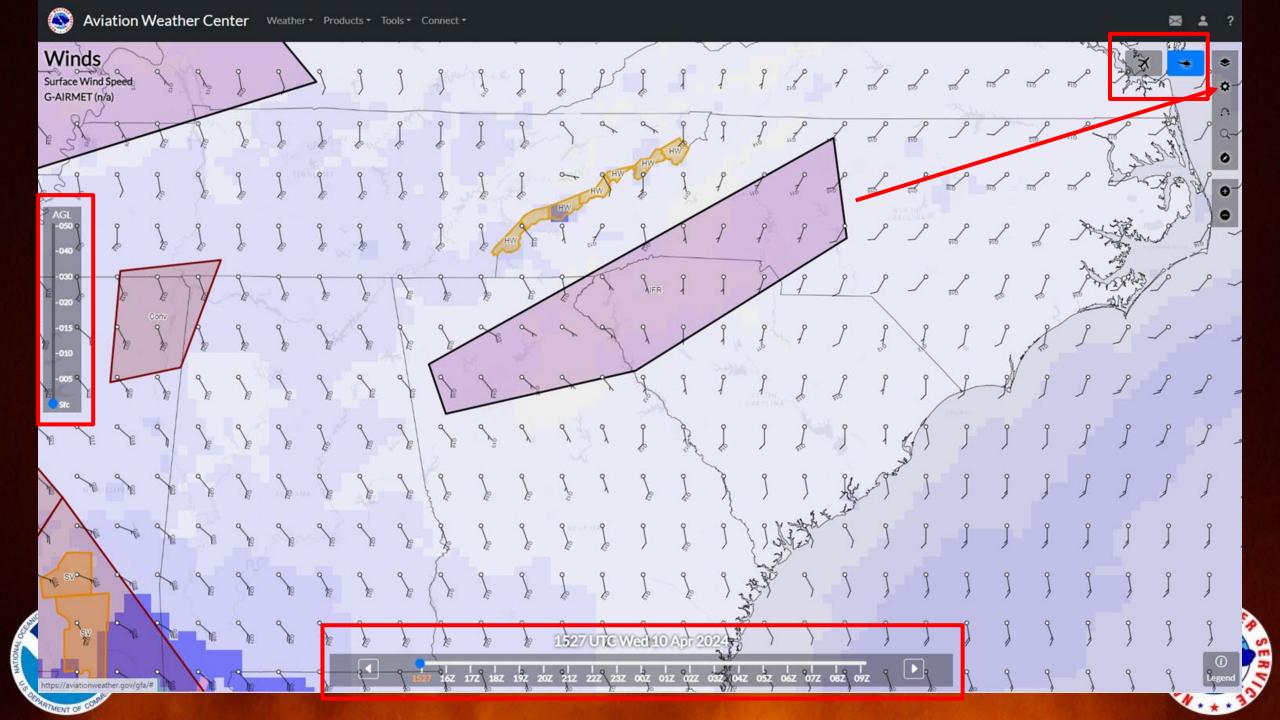
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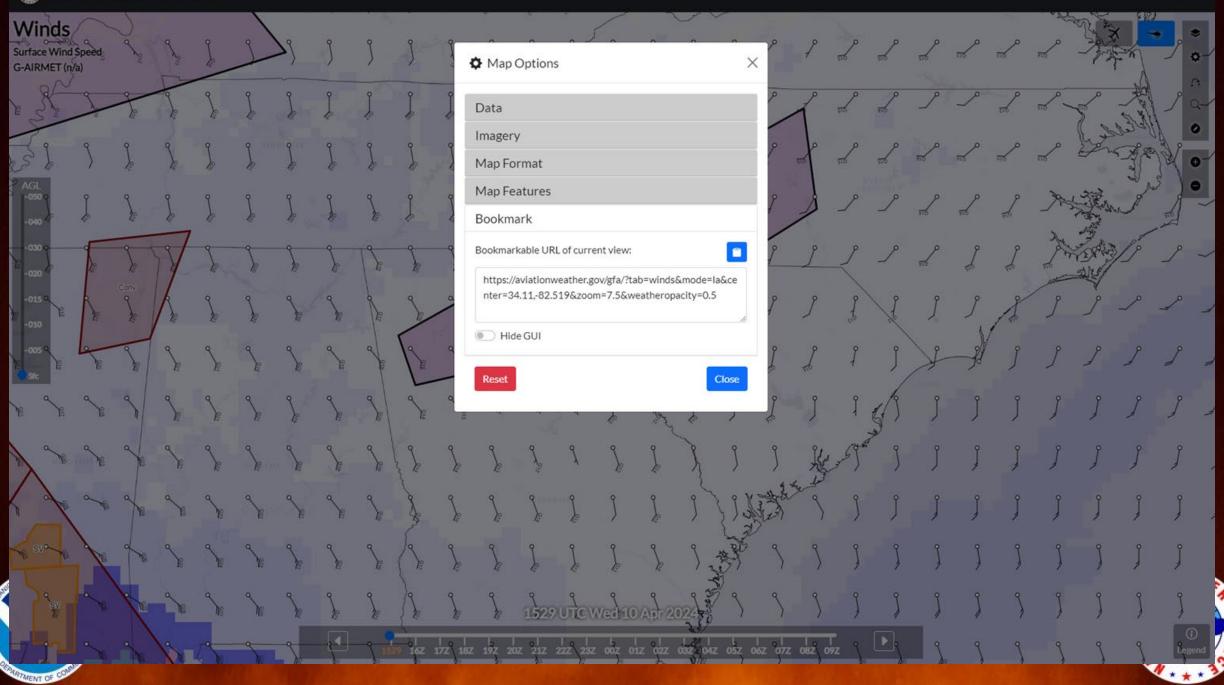


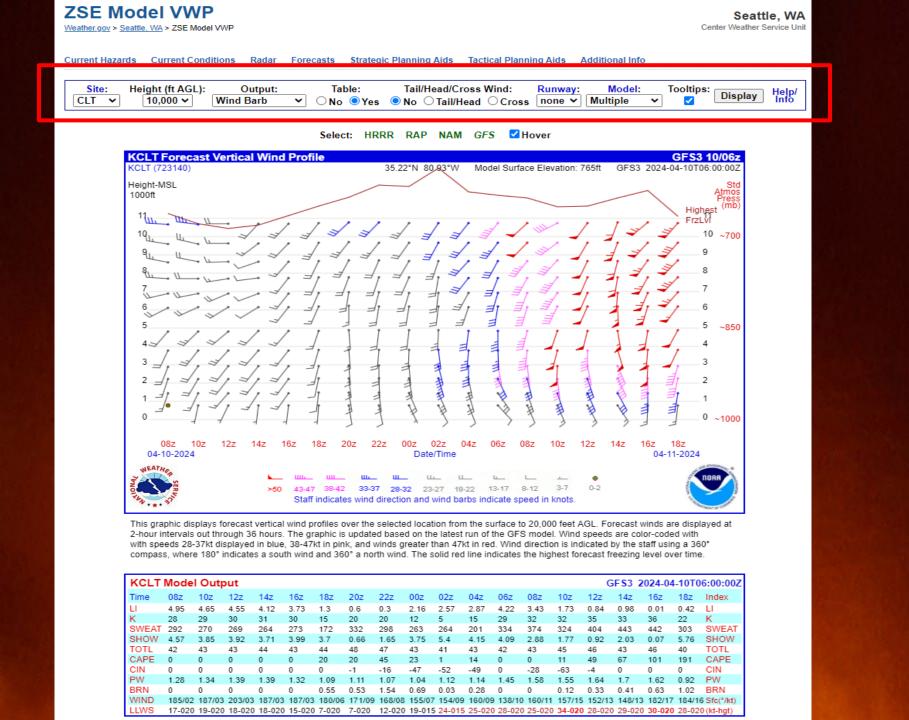






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# Questions?





## **Internet Links**

### <u>NWS Columbia Homepage</u> https://www.weather.gov/cae/

### Hourly Weather Graph for NWS Columbia

https://forecast.weather.gov/gridpoint.php?site=cae&TypeDefault=graphical

### Aviation Weather Center https://aviationweather.gov/

<u>Forecast Vertical Wind Profile</u> <u>https://www.weather.gov/zse/ZSEModelVWP?site=kxxx</u>&height=10&output=barb <u>&table=yes&tailwind=no&runway=00&model=multiple&tooltips=on#ZSEcontent</u> \*\*\*NOTE: Make xxx the nearest airport, not all airports will work





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